

A NEW SPECIES OF *CRITONIA* (ASTERACEAE, EUPATORIEAE) FROM GUERRERO, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new subarborescent species of *Critonia*, *C. paneroi* B.L. Turner, is described and illustrated from Guerrero, México. It is seemingly most closely related to the Central American *C. belizeana* B.L. Turner, but differs by numerous characters.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Eupatorieae, *Critonia*, México, Guerrero

The following novelty was called to my attention by its primary collector, who suspected that it might be undescribed.

***CRITONIA PANEROI*** B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* Figure 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Guerrero: 25 km al s de Carrizal de Bravo sobre la carretera a Puerto del Gallo, 2400 m, 7 Mar 1994, José L. Panero 3950, with Ismael Calzada (HOLOTYPE: MEXU; Isotype: TEX!).

Similis *Critoniae belizeanae* B.L. Turner sed est arbor parva 5-7 m alta (vice fruticis parvi 1-2 m alti) habens involuera parviora (7-9 mm alta vice 14-15 mm) osculosque pauciores (4-5 vice 10 aut pluriorum).

Small tree 4-7 m high. Stems terete, minutely pubescent at first, glabrate with age. Leaves opposite, those 2-3 nodes below the capitulescence 15-20 cm long, 7-9 cm wide; petioles 2-3 cm long; blades ovate, drying blackish-green (even with standard drying procedures), at maturity glabrous above and below or nearly so, the margins obscurely crenulodentate. Capitulescence a broadly rounded terminal corymbose panicle, 15-20 cm high, 20-25 cm across, the ultimate peduncles hispidulous, 1-5 mm long. Involucres turbocampanulate, 7-9 mm high, 3-4 mm wide (pressed); bracts 4-5 seriate, markedly graduate, persistent, the inner series subscarious, 3-nervate, their apices broadly obtuse to rounded. Receptacle ca. 0.3 mm across, naked, glabrous. Florets 4-5 per head. Corollas white, 7-8 mm long, glabrous, the tubes 3-4 mm long,

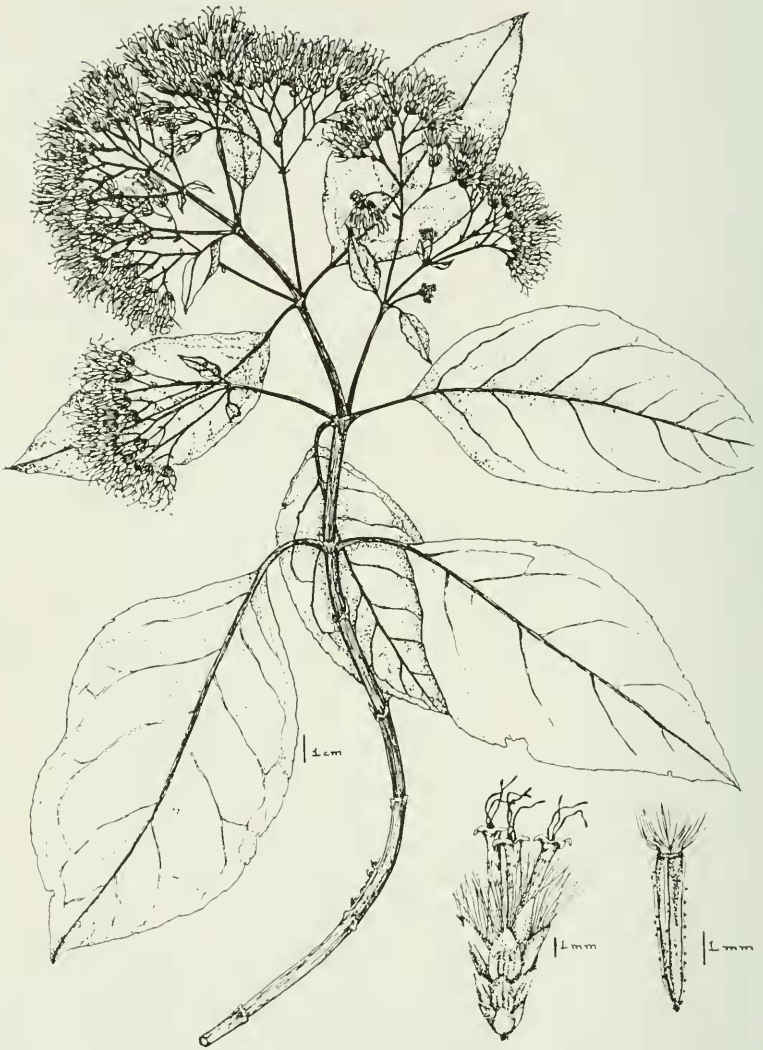


Figure 1. *Critonia paneroi*, from isotype (TEX).

gradually grading into the throats; lobes 5, deltoid, 0.3-0.5 mm long. Anther appendages broadly ovate, relatively thin, ca. 0.35 mm long, 0.2 mm wide. Style branches linear-oblongate, smooth, widest at or near the apices. Achenes 4.0-4.5 mm long, brown, 4-5 ribbed, atomiferous-glandular throughout, the carpodium weakly developed, if at all; pappus of 40-50 white uniseriate bristles 3-5 mm long.

*Critonia paneroi* is a very distinctive Mexican species, especially notable for its subarborescent habit; peculiar leaves, which when fresh are described on the label as "verde obscuro y brillante"; and large markedly graduate involucre each having only 4-5 florets. It is seemingly most closely related to the recently described *C. belizeana*, but differ in a number of characters, the most notable called to the fore in my Latin diagnosis.

It is a pleasure to name this striking taxon for its primary collector, Prof. José Panero, a newly appointed colleague in the Botany Department at the University of Texas, Austin, whose long-time interest in the Asteraceae of Latin America is well known.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Gayle Turner for the Latin diagnosis, and to her and Tom Wendt for reviewing the paper.